



**US Army Corps
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Memphis District

News Release

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Corps takes next steps to operate the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway

SIKESTON, Mo., May 1, 2011, 3:33 p.m. – Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, President of the Mississippi River Commission, has directed Col. Vernie Reichling, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis District Commander and field crews to move the barges across the river to Missouri and load the pipes with the binary agent at the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway. This will take about twenty hours.

Walsh said he will review the situation continuously as conditions change. The next step, and final step, is to activate the floodway by artificially breaching the levee. The final decision to activate the floodway has not been made. Repeat- has not been made.

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Contact the BP-NM JIC at (877) 219-0478 (work).

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